

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW NAME FOR THE JAMAICAN BAT
MOLOSSUS FULIGINOSUS GRAY

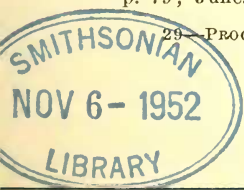
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The name *Molossus fuliginosus* W. Cooper (Ann. New York Lyceum Nat. Hist., vol. 4, p. 67; November, 1837), which was applied to a bat from Milledgeville, Georgia, of the species currently known as *Tadarida cynocephala* (Le Conte), invalidates the name *Molossus fuliginosus* proposed by Gray in February, 1838, for a different kind of bat from Jamaica. This fact was recognized in 1914 by G. M. Allen, who considered the Jamaican bat to be identical with the Hispaniolan *Molossus verrilli* of J. A. Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 24, p. 581; September 11, 1908), hence not in need of a valid name. In 1913, however, Miller had published a revision of the genus *Molossus* in which he recognized differences between the type of *verrilli* and the thirteen specimens from Jamaica then in the U. S. National Museum collection. Apparently overlooking the fact that Gray's name was preoccupied, Miller continued to use it for the Jamaican form, and subsequent authors have followed his example.

A new name is here provided as a substitute for *Molossus fuliginosus* Gray, with a list of the principal technical citations that apply to the older name.

Molossus milleri, new name

1838. *Molossus fuliginosus* Gray, Mag. Zool. & Botany, vol. 2, no. 12, p. 501; February. (Based on material in the British Museum; locality unknown.)
1839. *Mol[ossus] fuliginosus* Gray, Ann. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, no. 21, p. 7; September.
1843. *Molossus fuliginosus* Gray, List of the specimens of Mammalia in the collection of the British Museum, p. 35. (Three specimens listed, from Bermuda, Jamaica, and Porto Bello.)
1851. *Molossus fumarius* (part), Gosse, A naturalist's sojourn in Jamaica, p. 293.
1861. *Molossus fumarius* (part), Tomes, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1861, p. 68; May.
1865. *Molossus fumarius* (part), Osburn, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1865, p. 79; June.



1877. *Molossus obscurus* (part), Dobson, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1876, p. 710; April.
1878. [*Molossus rufus*] Var. a (*Molossus obscurus*) (part), Dobson, Catalogue of the Chiroptera in the collection of the British Museum, pp. 412-413. (Specimen from Jamaica selected as type of *fuliginosus*.)
1893. *Molossus obscurus* (part), Cockerell, Jour. Inst. Jamaica, vol. 1, no. 6, p. 261; April.
1897. *Molossus obscuris* [*sic*] (part), Anonymous [P. W. Jarvis ?], Jamaica Post (newspaper), July 6, 1897.
1897. *Molossus rufus obscurus* (part), Trouessart, Catalogus mammalium tam viventium quam fossilium, fasc. 1, p. 143.
1904. [*Molossus rufus*] *obscurus* (part), Elliot, Publ. Field Columbian Mus., Zool. Ser., vol. 4, pt. 2, p. 620.
1907. *Molossus rufus obscurus* (part), Elliot, Publ. Field Columbian Mus., Zool. Ser., vol. 8, p. 522; March 4.
1913. *Molossus fuliginosus*, Miller, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 46, p. 90; August 23.
1914. *Molossus verrilli* (part), G. M. Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 54, p. 248; July.
1924. *Molossus fuliginosus*, Miller, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 128, p. 89.
1951. *Molossus fuliginosus*, Koopman & Williams, Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 1519, p. 19; June 6.

Molossus milleri is intended to be wholly synonymous with Gray's *Molossus fuliginosus*, taking the same type specimen and type locality. The Jamaican specimen designated lectotype by Dobson is presumably still in the British Museum. The new name is suggested in honor of Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., former Curator of Mammals in the United States National Museum, the author of "The Families and Genera of Bats," and the latest reviser of the genus *Molossus*.

In using a binomial rather than a trinomial form I am aware that, when viewed by present concepts of the relative values of species and subspecies, many of the kinds of *Molossus* are more closely related than Miller's revision of nearly forty years ago would indicate. The next reviser of the genus may treat many of Miller's Antillean "species" as geographic races of a few widely ranging species. Until a revision based on study of specimens has been completed, however, it is surely bad taxonomic procedure to attempt to anticipate its conclusions.